Concordia University
Arts and Science

LOYOLA COMPASS

LOYOLA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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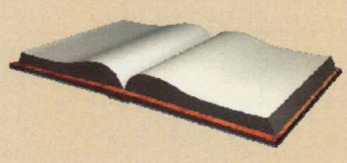

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Cristina Barbu

Success at the 5th Annual Concordia-Siena Conference

Loyola International College is proud to announce that the 5th Annual Concordia-Siena Conference which took place in March 2010 was a tremendous success, with a higher attendance then ever before. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was examined and discussed by students and scholars alike. The Conference was followed by a late dinner at "The Hive", and by a student outing to McKibbin's Irish Pub organized by Loyola International College Student Association (LICSA).

From left to right: Cristina Barbu, Rosemarie Schade, Adan Suazo, Giuseppe de Cesare, Lynne Le Kim, Juan Felipe Garzon Gomez, Jessica Sypher, Richard Leschiutta, Laura Fregeau, Catherine Patrick-Boon.

LIC News

Loyola International College would like to congratulate Kevin Naimi for being chosen as one of three Valedictorians for the Spring 2010 Arts and Science convocation ceremonies. This is the second consecutive year that a Valedictorian was chosen from Loyola International College. Kevin Naimi will start a Masters in Education program at the University of Toronto in September 2010. Congratulations Kevin!

LOYC 398 A: Selected Topics Loyola International College – Borderlands

A new and groundbreaking course will be taught at Loyola International College starting in January 2011. The course "LOYC 398 A" will focus on issues concerning the Canadian/American border studied from geographical, historical, ideological, national, cultural, economical, social and political perspectives. Field trips will be organized during the course to enable students to conduct research onsite at the border. This course will be taught simultaneously at both Loyola International College and Siena College (NY), and students will share their research results with their peers across the border. Only honour students, or students who have permission from either LIC or the Political Science department, will be allowed to take this course.

Upcoming Events

The Welcome Luncheon

When? Thursday, September 23, 2010 from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm
Where? AD-307 (Loyola Campus)
Event Description – To continue our yearly tradition, we invite new and returning students to attend the "Welcome Luncheon," which provides students the opportunity to socialize with one another, as well as with their professors. A delicious free vegetarian meal will be served during the luncheon.

Book launch: "How Did We All Begin? Where is God in All That?" by Calvin S. Kalman

When? Thursday, October 7, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Where? The Loyola Chapel (FC building on the Loyola Campus)
Event Description – Dr. Kalman, the Principal of Concordia's Science College, has prepared a presentation on his new book. The book itself can be purchased during the event and Professor Kalman will be available for signings. Refreshments will be served.

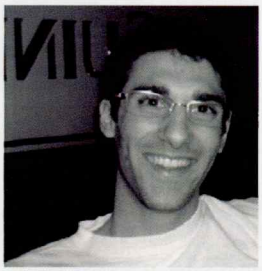
FREE LIC WORKSHOP - The Basics of Guitar in 10 Weeks

In the spirit of community and volunteering initiatives, Loyola International College would like to invite students to participate in a ten week free guitar workshop. This course will be taught by a new LIC student, Lauren Sedbon who has been playing classical guitar for several years and has decided to give her time and teach her skill as part of a new LIC volunteering project (Thanks Lauren!). The workshop will be taught every Tuesday from 2:45 to 4:00 pm in AD – 506 (The LIC Common Room) starting on October 5th. Students who are interested are encouraged to contact the LIC office by phone, email or in person. It should be noted that students must bring their own guitar (both acoustic and classical are considered appropriate) and sign up early since the class only has 8 places (4 of which are reserved for LIC students). This course aims at teaching students the basics of guitar playing. It is a beginner's course for those who have never played this instrument before. Deadline to register is Friday, September 25th.

Loyola International College Student Association News

Welcome students of Loyola International College to the New 2010/2011 academic year!

As summer becomes a warm memory, another school semester begins on a high note filled with activities to get you involved with Loyola International College Student Association LICSA. These events are always a fun way to get to know your fellow students and professors outside of the classroom setting. However, before we get to the fun stuff, the new LICSA team would like to send out a sincere thank you to the former LICSA crew who set such a high standard for LICSA events. Curtis, Laura and Lynn: the time you dedicated is appreciated by all of Loyola International College and we wish you the best in your future endeavours.



Now for some LICSA updates! As most of you know, we had Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA) elections in April and are pleased to announce that Richard will be returning as our VP Finance, while Phil, Mariana and Alex will be filling the rest of our VP positions. I, Jessica Sypher, am delighted to be the new LICSA President, taking a step-up in responsibility from last year's position as VP Sustainability. On that note, the position of VP Sustainability is still up for grabs, as sadly the nominated candidate had to step down at the last minute. The ASFA by-elections for this position will be held in September. Please feel free to contact me at jessicasypher@hotmail.com if you would like to run for this position or have some questions you need answered first.

As we start a new academic year, you can expect LICSA to be present at the Welcome Luncheon and the Loyola International College (LIC) Book Launch, as well as co-hosting our popular **Wine & Cheese October 16th (time and location TBA)**. The recent addition to our student lounge in room AD 506 included coffees and teas available for all LIC students, a more pleasant arrangement, as well as the new vermicompost - an indoor composter where raw fruits and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and teabags can be placed. For more information on Sustainable Concordia's vermicompost workshops or purchasing opportunities, contact r4wormcompost@gmail.com.

I hope that you have had a safe and exciting summer and are ready for a new academic year.– Sincerely, Jessica Sypher

Loyola Campus News

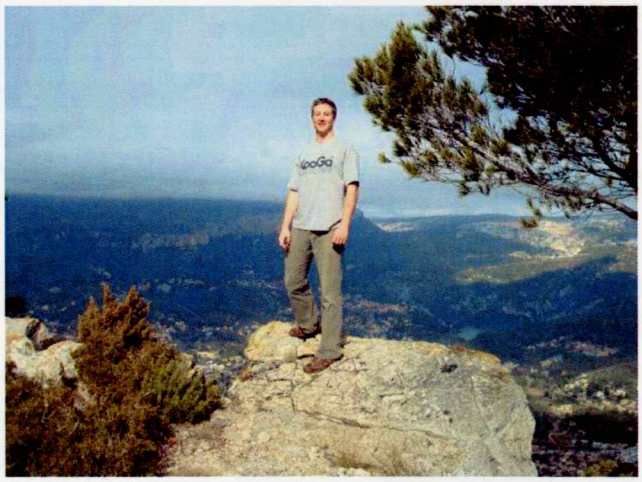
The CSU has recognized that students at Loyola have little-to-no options when it comes to where they can have lunch. In an effort to make sure that student life at Loyola is just as vibrant as it is downtown, as well as offer students a great service, the CSU developed the Loyola Luncheon. You can drop by The Hive at Loyola from **Monday to Friday at 12:30** and have a **free,** healthy and delicious vegetarian lunch!

Student News

Exchange Experience

By Curtis McKinney

Currently in Program (Major Political Science, Minor Diversity in the Contemporary World, Member of Loyola International College)



Toulon, France.

I never imagined the extent of experiences I would have on exchange in Toulouse, France. It was my first time leaving our continent behind and I was at first overwhelmed at the chance to visit Europe and explore all the historical sites that I had only read about in books. It is no secret that Europe can engage one's imagination. Castles, churches, fragments of Roman walls and narrow streets are at the traveler's disposal for exploration. Toulouse specifically had remnants of a Roman wall and magnificent churches that played a large role in housing pilgrims prior to their walk over the Pyrenees and on to Spain.

However, the visual reminders of a long ago past are merely backdrops to the people and the culture of a region. I was fortunate enough to meet locals who were thrilled at the idea of sharing their culture and also very interested in finding out about Canada. Our discussions knew no boundaries as we contemplated and debated issues such as a law recently passed in France forbidding women from completely covering their faces to Toulouse's role during the Second World War. I was very impressed by the extent of literature youth in the equivalent of high school were exposed to, along with their basic knowledge of culture. Growing up in Alberta, my education was centered on math and sciences, which I suspect is a general reality for most children growing up in North America. A deeper understanding of different cultures and traditions is something I have taken from my time in Toulouse.

In my experience, a strong grasp of a people's past is not found in cities but rather in the country side. I traveled to many fascinating cities in and around Europe; however, the one trip that will always be with me was when I biked to Albi from Toulouse. I rode along the route d'Albi, a relatively quiet country road that wove through a hilly countryside spotted with vineyards and the most romantic towns. This is truly where the heart of France is and I suspect this holds true with most countries. There is a stubborn quality about the people holding on desperately to their traditions. I was hosted very graciously throughout the trip because it was a chance for people to share their unique identities and what the region had to offer.

My recommendations to anyone planning on doing an exchange or looking for a new way to experience even their own country would be to get away from the major centers. Stop for an espresso in a small town or sample cuisine from recipes that have been kept within a family through generations. It will provide your hosts with an opportunity to share their culture while truly enriching your own experiences and broadening your knowledge while traveling.

Loyola International College – Former Students News

So whatever happened to them?

Crossroads

By Ramin Rezai, BA
(Major Political Science, Minor Diversity in the Contemporary World,
Member of Loyola International College)
Current Location: Berlin, Germany

To the graduating class of 2010, congratulations - you will (if you haven't already) embark on a new journey as you confront the real obstacle out there in this vast world – getting a job. Or maybe delay that by attending grad school during these difficult economic times.

Like so many recent graduates before me, my initial plan was to secure a teaching position abroad before continuing my studies. And with ease, I was offered my first job as a high school ESL teacher in Thailand, only to discover that the position was a scam. Without hesitation, I took this as a sign that teaching might not be right for me and settled for an internship at an institute based in Germany that focused primarily on facilitating intercultural relations amongst nations. Whether it was interviewing former German Ministers, or spending quality time with a Nigerian diplomat while trapped in an elevator, I noticed instantly that this is what I was looking for in a career.

It was at this time that I also received an offer of admission to the London School of Economics (thanks for the reference letters) and celebrated accordingly. While I now have some excellent options to consider for my future, I am also aware of the fact that it is very easy to get swallowed up in debt in England while pursuing graduate studies – a lesson I learned while completing a financial undertaking form. This is something I will also have to seriously consider.

"... LIC has allowed me to be more competitive when applying to specialized political job openings and university programs. "

Right now, I am at a crossroads, and like many other students, will have to decide whether to work, or to continue my studies. Although I might be the most indecisive person out there, I can say with assurance that by supplementing my intellectual diet with a minor that covered a vast array of disciplines, LIC has allowed me to be more competitive when applying to specialized political job openings and university programs. And despite the current economic downturn (make no mistake about it, times are tough), the future is filled challenging opportunities thanks to the education I received at Concordia University.

Culture Shock

by Eugenia Yupanqui Aurich, BA
(Major Political Science, Minor Diversity in the Contemporary World, Member of Loyola International College)

Last fall I started my master's degree at Lund University. Lund is a small student city in the south of Sweden, exactly 45 minutes by train from Copenhagen. I mainly decided to study in Sweden because it is one of the few countries in the world that provides free education for international students. Besides, Sweden is also home of two of the most well-known European universities. I was very excited to go to Lund because it is a place known for its multicultural environment. For this reason I thought that Lund could not be so much different from Montreal. I was very much mistaken. In Sweden, immigration is something fairly recent. I noticed this the first time I took the bus and felt somewhat like a minority as a darker skinned young Latin woman. I must say that everyone looked blond to me! Of course, I now see this as an exaggeration on my part, but the degree of cultural diversity in Montreal is overwhelmingly higher. I found myself for the first time living in a city where there was a predominant culture. And, this is when my culture shock took place.

As first impressions go, Swedes can seem very distant. If you add the fact that they are very proud of their heritage to the mix, it can be intimidating. At first, the "Swedish way" (as the other international students I befriended during my time in Sweden call it) seemed uninviting. Now that I look back, I can see how my minor on Diversity and the Contemporary World helped me, through multidisciplinary courses on communication and human development, to understand that even though Canada and Sweden are two Western societies, big cultural differences still remain. I learned that cultural differences between Westerners are more subtle and harder to pinpoint. My minor made it possible for me to understand that Swedes were not standoffish! I realized that Swedes are just particularly private people. Whereas in Canada we are used to being curious about other people's background and we want to learn about other cultures, Swedes are very reserved. This does not mean that they are not curious. But, they just won't approach you and ask you questions. Getting to know a Swede can be very much a one-way interrogation process. Nonetheless, once their "guard" is down, Swedes can be among the warmest people I've ever met. It might have taken me a while to understand this, but in a few months I found myself having "fika" (Swedish coffee breaks) and using Swedish expressions. Swedes are very social and they love to party. Nothing will stop a Swede from having fun; they even drink warm beer! They can also be very funny. The trick is to look beyond their reserved exteriors and then you will realize that they're not being serious, but sarcastic. After spending almost a year in Sweden, I made tons of friends and it felt like home. Sweden turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. I am very happy that I decided to go and I can't wait to get back and finish my master's in the fall.

Visiting Malmo, Sweden.

LIC Volunteering Program

Loyola International College will be continuing its partnership with several non-profit organizations whose goals run parallel to those of the college. We encourage students to get involved in their communities by volunteering for an organization that represents their interests and values. For evaluation purposes, we ask future volunteers to contact Cristina Barbu at 514 848 2424 ext. 2125.

Benefits of Volunteering:

- ✓ You are actually providing a service that will be appreciated by staff and consumers alike.
- ✓ If you are not sure about a future career, volunteering in the field can help you decide whether or not you wish to pursue this direction.
- ✓ You can gain practical experience in a field that may be useful to future employment opportunities (and it looks nice on your CV).
- ✓ You will learn things that may come in handy some day.
- ✓ You can make arrangements for a letter of reference from the organization for which you volunteer.

LIC has been in contact with several organizations for the purpose of this project, and here are a few of the organizations we encourage you to contact:

Welcome Hall MISSION

Who they are: "Welcome Hall Mission is a Montreal non-profit organization that has been fighting against homelessness, poverty, social exclusion and hunger since 1892. We operate one of city's largest men's shelters and run a live-in rehabilitation program. Through our Family Services, we distribute food, clothing and other items to 1,500 families weekly. Over 6,000 children from underprivileged neighborhoods participate in our Children's Services activities and camps. Our Youth Services provides counseling and hot meals to over 100 street youth daily."
Website: missionba.com
Contact: Tania Togias
Telephone: 514 937-9317

LES CENTRES DE LA JEUNESSE ET DE LA FAMILLE BATSHAW
BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

Website: batshaw.qc.ca/en
Contact: Sandra Baines
Telephone: 514-989-1885, ext. 1234

Who they are: "The mission of Batshaw Youth and Family Centers (Batshaw Centers), established under the Act Respecting Health Services and Social Services, is summarized as follows:

- to provide psychosocial, rehabilitation and social integration services;
- to ensure the provision of services related to child placement, adoption, adoption disclosure, reunification, expertise to the Superior Court and mediation."

Who they are (French only) : « Équiterre contribue à bâtir un mouvement de société en incitant citoyens, organisations et gouvernements à faire des choix écologiques, équitables et solidaires. »
Website : equiterre.org/
Contact: Marie-Eve Roy
Telephone: 514 522-2000, ext. 232

Who they are: "The YMCA Residence offers temporary housing accommodations for individuals and families experiencing various complications. We do this by welcoming asylum-seekers, accepted refugees, those who have been evicted or have lost their homes due to disaster (fire, etc.) as well as families coming to Montreal to receive healthcare (Inuits). Our community initiative here at the Residence aims to support the people staying here by welcoming and integrating them into this multi-cultural community."
Website: ymcaquebec.org/en/community/covered_garden/

Contact: Heloise Ouimet
Telephone: 514 932-5353 ext. 204

Réginald Godin
Coordonnateur—Développement du financement
Coordinator—Financing Development
T: 514-369-0800, poste 226
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@: rgodin@alzheimermontreal.ca
5165, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, bureau 410, Montréal (Québec) H4A 1T6
www.alzheimermontreal.ca

Who they are: "Since 1981, the Alzheimer Society of Montréal works to alleviate the social and personal consequences of Alzheimer's and related disorders, as well as to promote research into their causes and cure."

Who they are: "WomenAWARE/FemmesAVERTIES is a non-profit, community-based organization that works to support as well as prevent and end domestic violence against women, youth, and children."
Website: womenaware.ca
Contact: June Mitchell
Telephone: 514-908-9014

Who they are: "Tyndale St Georges' mission is to empower the Little Burgundy Community through educational programs and services. Our departments are: Early Childhood, Children Youth and Families, and Adult Development".
Website: tyndalestgeorges.com/

Contact: Irmeli Vastamaa
Telephone: 514-931-6265 ext. 31

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